been carried out by C.P.W.D. under the 10% contribution scheme which is permissible and as such no action is necessary.

Anti-Defection law

*20. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Enforcement of anti-defection law should be entrusted to E.C.: Gill", published in the Statesman, dated the 11th June, 2001;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what other pieces of electoral reforms are proposed to be introduced to rid our political system of defection and frequent change-over of party loyalty by the elected representatives of Parliament and State Legislatures?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Certain proposals relating to amendments to the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution (anti-defection law) were included in the agenda for the meeting of political parties on the subject of reform of electoral laws held on 22.5.1998 but the discussion on the issue was deferred. The Election Commission of India for the first time in its letter dated 15.7.1998, had suggested that anti-defection law may be amended so that the President and the concerned Governors may act on the opinion given by the Election Commission of India. The Government, However, intends to discuss the issue with the political parties at the appropriate time as part of the process of reform of electoral laws since the issue can be resolved only through consensus among political parties.